Monday, April 12, 2010 Vol. 25 / No. 123

Traveling is learning — LEARNING / G1
Who are the people who help get the votes? — ELECTIONS 2010 / H4
Westwood survives Mickelson's Masters surge; Tiger stays in touch — SPORTS / A30
Celebs share profile pics on popular site — ENTERTAINMENT / F1
Poland in shock over death of leader — WORLD / A28

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



LOTUS BLOOMS As the intense heat of the sun subsides in Candaba town in Pampanga, lotus plants from Thailand and India bloom in two hectares of its swampland.

2 voting machines malfunction in HK

Cold, damp weather blamed

By Kristine L. Alave

HONG KONG—HICCUPS were blamed this time on the cold and damp Hong Kong weather.

On the second day of the overseas absentee voting here, the precinct count optical scan machines (PCOS) at the Bayanihan Kennedytown Center did not immediately accept the ballots from voters at Precincts 15 and 16 shortly after they reopened at 8 a.m. yesterday.

Inspection of the ballots showed no stray and ambiguous marks on the ballots that could result in their rejection by the PCOS machines.

At Precinct 16, a replacement machine was brought in after 45 minutes and worked well. But at Precinct 15, the two substitutes didn't function, prompting technicians to reinstall the supposedly faulty equipment, which surprisingly operated without problems.

Within several hours, balloting in the two precincts went as smoothly, as it did elsewhere in the world since Saturday, when

2 VOTING A6

Thailand in turmoil after 21 die in clashes

BANGKOK—ANTIGOVERNMENT protesters dug into their encampments around Bangkok and rejected talk of negotiations on Sunday after a monthlong standoff escalated into clashes that killed 21 people in Thailand's worst political violence in nearly two decades.

Bullet casings, rocks and pools of blood littered the streets near a main tourist area where soldiers had tried to clear the protesters, who are demanding that the prime minister dissolve Parliament and call early elections.

Foreign governments issued warnings to their citizens visiting Thailand, where tourism is a lifeblood industry.

On Sunday, protesters showed off a pile of weapons they had captured from the troops, including rifles and heavy caliber machine-gun rounds. The activists also captured several Thai soldiers who were later released.

Jatuporn Prompan, a leader of the Red Shirt movement that contends the current government is illegitimate because it does not reflect results of the last elections, said Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's hands were "bloodied."

"There is no more negotia-

THAILAND A20



CLASH VICTIM Protesters carry Reuters TV cameraman Hiro Muramoto after he was shot during clashes in Bangkok. REUTERS

US 'green' award for GMA draws outrage

By Christian V. Esguerra and Jerome Aning

NOT SO FAST.

Most environmental and religious groups have expressed outrage over the prestigious conservation award President Macapagal-Arroyo is set to receive at the US Congress in Washington tomorrow.

Ms Arroyo is also scheduled to receive another award this week in Madrid from Spanish King Juan Carlos I for her efforts in promoting the Spanish language in the Philippines.

A Switzerland-based organization has written the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), saying it was "shocked and very angry" over the Teddy Roosevelt International Conservation Award to

OUTRAGE A6



Villar gains slightly in poll; Aquino still up

By Nikko Dizon

SEN. MANUEL VILLAR, Nacionalista Party standard-bearer, gained a point in a voters' opinion poll paid for by an ally, but his strongest rival, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III of the Liberal Party, remained ahead by 8 percentage points.

In the Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey commissioned by San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora and conducted two weeks ago, 37 percent of the respondents said they would vote for Aquino while 29 percent said they would support Villar.

Former President Joseph Estrada got 17 percent, down two points from 19 percent, while administration candidate Gilbert Teodoro gained 2 points, receiving 8 percent.

There was practically no movement in the standings of all the nine presidential candidates as the changes, if any, in their ratings were well within the margin of error of plus or minus 2.1 percentage points.

The survey, conducted from March 26 to 30, covered 2,100 respondents nationwide. The previous SWS survey was conducted from March 19 to 22.

The respondents were asked in Filipino, "Of the names on the list, who would you likely vote for if the presidential election were held today?"

Villar's confidence of finally overtaking Aquino has not wavered despite the Liberal Party standard bearer's 8-point lead.

"Mkt na yun (That's almost

VILLAR A6

Lakas-Kampi, Titanic share fate, says JDV

By Yolanda Sotelo
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—FOR THIS ONE-time builder of political arks, it's like watching a doomed "Titanic."

If there is anyone intently watching the growing cracks in the administration's Lakas-

LAKAS A22

'Ondoy' sign of 'ignored elephant'

By Pauline Gidget Estella and Kristine Abigail Lingbaoan
Contributors

LOURDES FRANCISCO, 49, wasn't just a witness to the terrible fury of climate change; she was also a victim.

For that was what Storm "Ondoy" was all about, experts say,

ONDOY A22

RP has 1M 'climate refugees,' and count is rising

By Fernando del Mundo
Chief, i-Team

(1st of a series)

THINK ISSUES i-TEAM Report

BOTOLAN, ZAMBALES—Ernesto Castillo never had it so good until Mt. Pinatubo erupted and forced him to face the inconvenient truth about the perils of climate change.

An Aeta, the wiry 45-year-old used to plant sweet potatoes and vegetables and hunt on the slopes of the long dormant volcano before it rumbled to life in 1991 and belched millions of tons of ash and sulfur dioxide.

"It was OK," Castillo says of his life before the eruptions that killed 800 people and displaced 500,000. His cash crops had given him a good income.

The fine volcanic ash that Pinatubo spewed blanketed a wide expanse of the surrounding areas and obliterated the land he tilled.

The sulfur dioxide discharged into the atmosphere eased global warming for several years, scientists say. However, the continued emission of greenhouse gases since the industrial revolution in the 18th century did little to arrest environmental damage.

Climate change is one of the major campaign issues in the May 10 elections, but it has grabbed little attention in the

REFUGEES A22



EVACUEES still live in this Tent City in Barangay Tagting, Botolan, Zambales, six months after Storm "Ondoy" came.

Second FrontPage

P16,000,000.00

Palace: Nothing to hide in case of 'Morong 43'

[illegible]

'Transparent'

[illegible]

Continued detention

[illegible]

Delayed Manila harbor project gets green light

[illegible]

GMA sends condolences to Poland

[illegible]

No respite from heat anywhere

UP frat's history in book

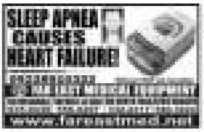
Comelec '90% ready' for automated elections

By Leila B. Salaverria

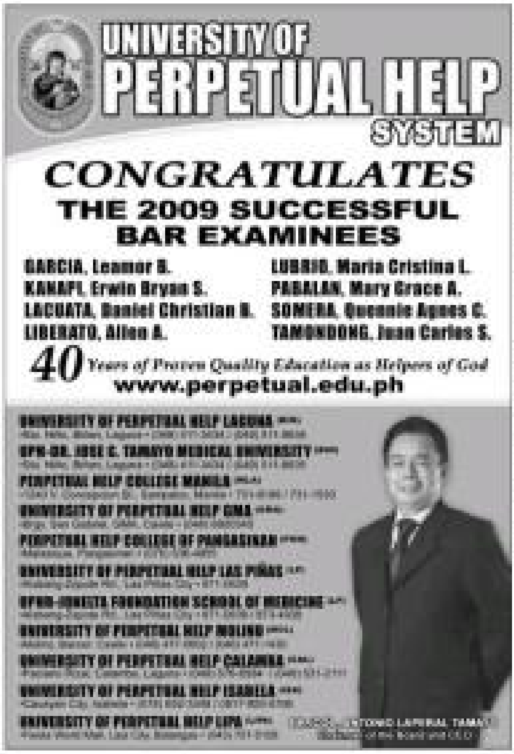
WITH JUST A MONTH TO GO, [illegible]



2 voting machines malfunction in HK



[illegible]






The lease you can expect.
Mercedes-Benz





'Magandang gabi,' new US envoy greets Pinoys at Naia

By Jerome Aning

THE UNITED States' new ambassador to the Philippines, Harry Thomas Jr., arrived in Manila on Saturday night and tried his Tagalog on well-wishers, greeting them with, "Magandang gabi sa inyong lahat (Good evening to all of you)."

"I am delighted to be here to take up my responsibility as ambassador," Thomas said in brief remarks at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

Rebecca Thompson, the US embassy's press attaché, said Thomas would be presenting his credentials to Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo today.

The envoy cited the strong ties between the two countries. "We are great friends and we have much to do together. I look forward to working with the people of the Philippines," he said.

He touched on what his father, Harry Sr., had to say about the Philippines after the latter's stay here at the end of World War II.

"My father always told me what a great time he had with the people of the Philippines. I hope I can live up to the work he and his colleagues did here," he said.

Linguist

According to a US Embassy statement, Thomas, who is fluent in Spanish, Hindi and Bengali, is learning Tagalog. He ended his arrival speech at the Naia with, "Maraming, maraming salamat sa inyong lahat (Many, many thanks to all of you)."

Thomas, 53, is the first African-American ambassador to the Philippines. He succeeded Kristie Kenney, the first woman US ambassador to the Philippines.

Thomas served most recently as director general of the foreign service and director for human resources of the US Department of State.

He served as a special assistant to former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and later as executive secretary of the state department.

Thomas joined the foreign service in 1984. He was the US ambassador to Bangladesh from 2003 to 2005. He also served in the White House as director for South Asia in the National Security Council from 2001 to 2002.

Briefed Bush

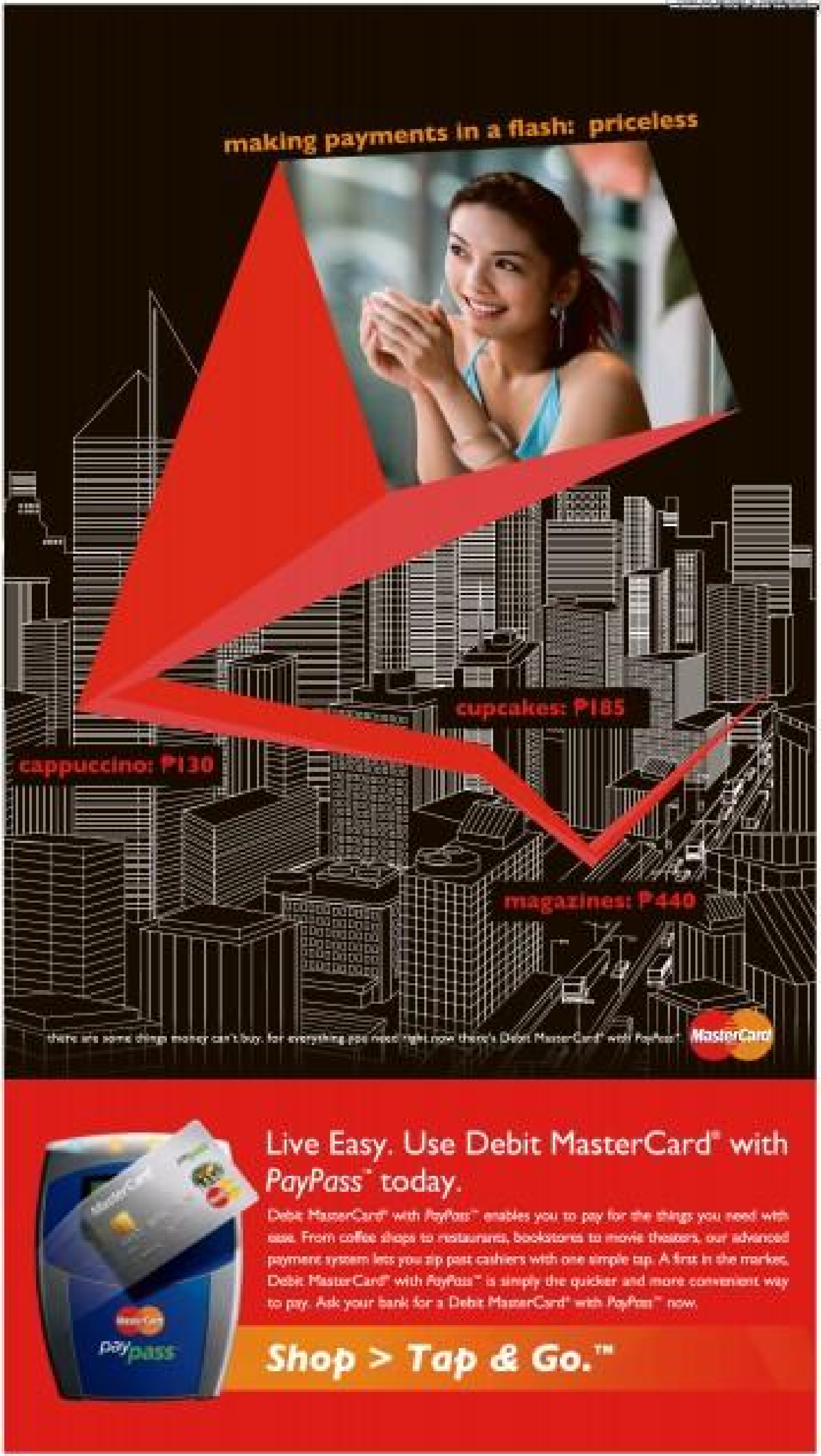
He was also posted in India, Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Peru.

While serving in the White House in 2001, Thomas briefed President George W. Bush as the US was negotiating to keep India and Pakistan from going to war.

In 2006, Thomas headed a task force that evacuated 15,000 US citizens from Lebanon at the height of clashes between Israeli troops and Hezbollah militants.

Born in New York City's Harlem district on June 4, 1956, Thomas is a graduate of the Jesuit-run College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts. He pursued further studies at Columbia University in New York.

He and his wife, Ericka, a jazz singer, have a daughter, Casey Marie.


making payments in a flash: priceless
cupcakes: ₱185
cappuccino: ₱130
magazines: ₱440
there are some things money can't buy. for everything you need right now there's Debit MasterCard® with PayPass™
MasterCard
Live Easy. Use Debit MasterCard® with PayPass™ today.
Debit MasterCard® with PayPass™ enables you to pay for the things you need with ease. From coffee shops to restaurants, bookstores to movie theaters, our advanced payment system lets you zip past cashiers with one simple tap. A first in the market, Debit MasterCard® with PayPass™ is simply the quicker and more convenient way to pay. Ask your bank for a Debit MasterCard® with PayPass™ now.
Shop > Tap & Go.™
paypass

Villar gains slightly in SWS poll

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE
February- March 2010 (in percent)

[illegible]

End-game strategy

[illegible]

More than 8 percent

[illegible]

Outrage over GMA award

[illegible]

Summit

[illegible]

Dishonor to biodiversity

[illegible]

Coral Triangle

[illegible]

King's residence

[illegible]





Joma backs Manny, slams Noynoy over Luisita

Comelec backs Hagedorn anew

American arrested after 26 yrs

Climate change film contest set

The Daily Gospel



HOUSING benefits



Putting Houses Within Reach



Ready Assistance in Times of Need



Relief for Calamity Victims

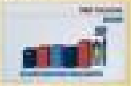




The FILIPINO WORKERS' Fund — Working to UPLIFT The Filipino







SAVINGS benefits



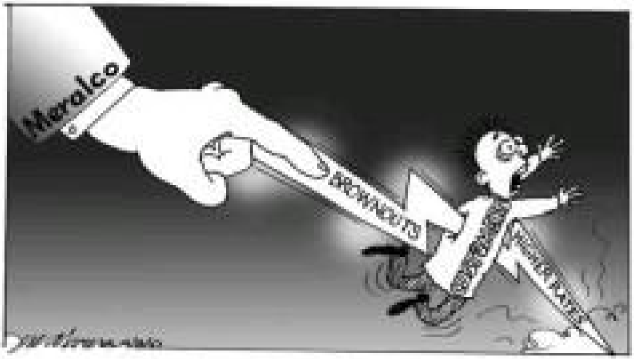
INQUIRER

OPINION

Dirty tricks

EDITORIAL

A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE'S PSYCHOLOGICAL profile is a legitimate election issue, [illegible]



The show that happens only once every six years

AS I SEE IT



Neal H. Cruz

[illegible]

Endgame

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

[illegible]

A district each for Arroyo and Andaya

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.



A new direction in business leadership

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan



The clash of classes

COMMENTARY

Apo Alvarez

The enemy of my enemy is my friend

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



LETTERS

Morality a matter of time and place

[illegible]





Nature shows sex not merely for procreation

[illegible]

Alternative to ATMs for GSIS members, pensioners

[illegible]

Surely Villar knows better than to ally with GMA

[illegible]

Disguised blessing? Gibo's new option for victory

[illegible]



Across the NATION

SC stance on Mendiola killings scored

BAGUIO CITY—A SERIES OF STUDIES BY A GROUP of political scientists underscored the supposed injustice perpetuated by the Supreme Court, when it failed to prosecute the government for the killing of protesting farmers on Mendiola Bridge in 1987.

PANLILIO-PINEDA REMATCH

A test for Kapampangan voters

SC orders recount in Tagaytay mayoral, vice mayoral races

6 Cebu mayors, 173 others defect to Villar

By Cebu Daily News

[illegible]

Seeking God's help for rain

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

[illegible]



ALFONSO Kiat-ong led the ritual called "manerwap," which brings an appeal for rain to their dead.

[illegible]

Power crisis taking toll on Mindanao businesses

By Abigail L. Ho

[illegible]

Project on hold

[illegible]

No investments

[illegible]

Freed dolphin returns

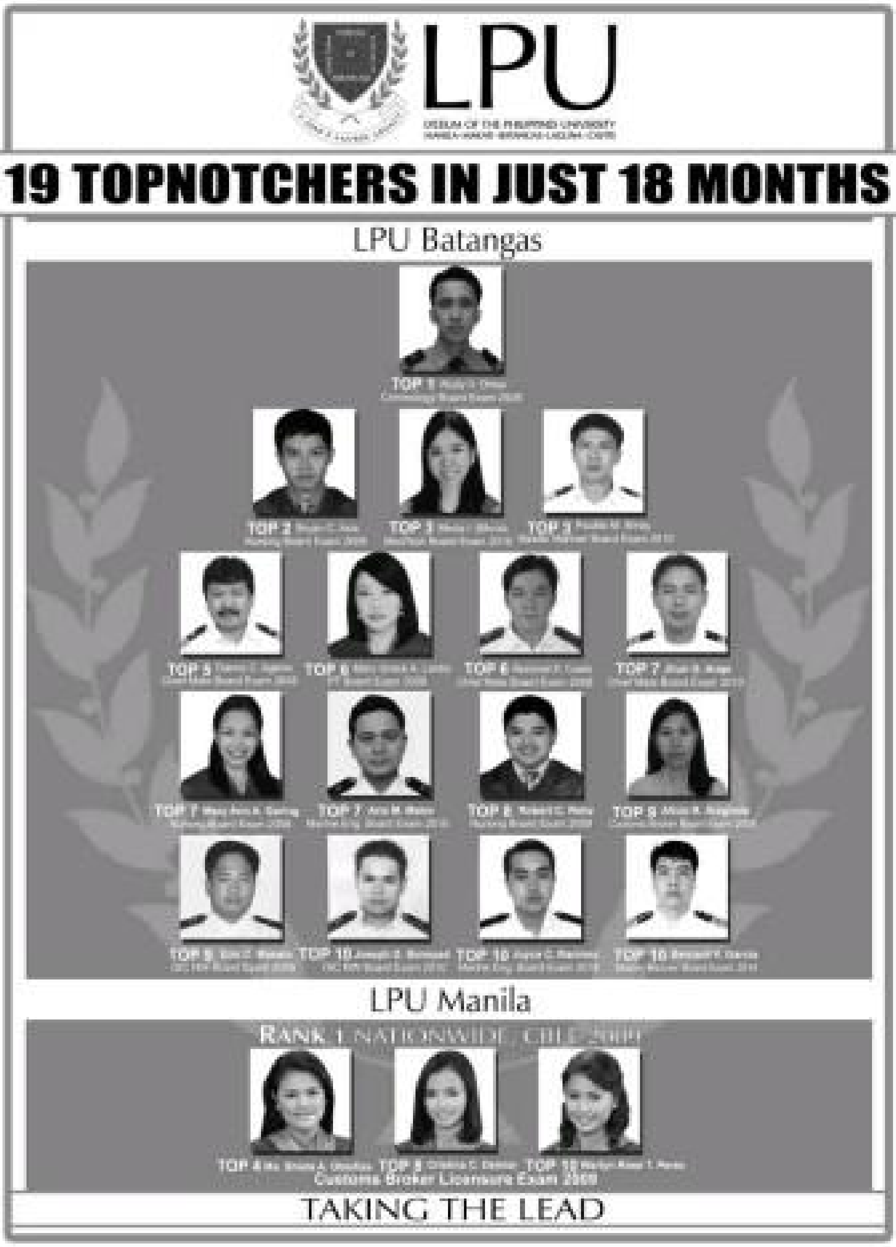
[illegible]



WATER RATIONING
Residents in Barangay Pasil, Cebu City, gather around a water tanker sent by the water services in Cebu City after days of no water in the area.

Duterte urges CPP to allow bets to campaign in its 'turf'



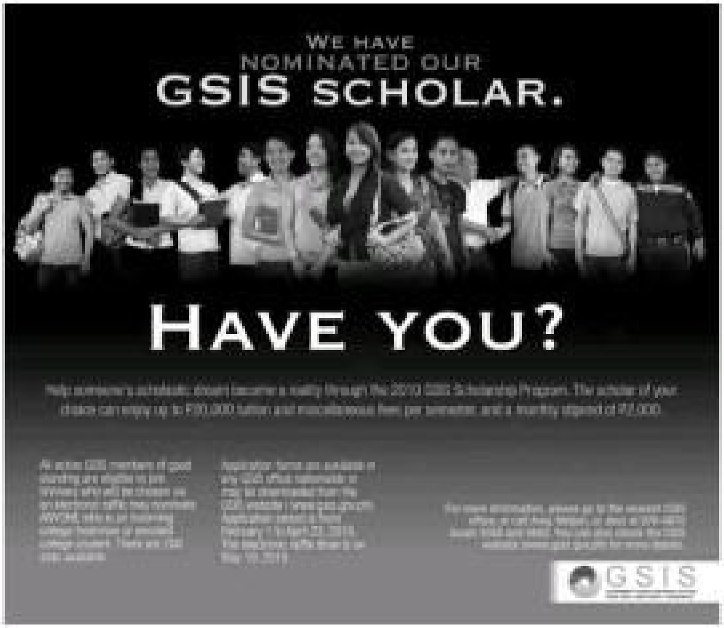


Thailand in turmoil after 21 die in clashes



THAKSIN







RP has 1M 'climate refugees,' and count is rising

From page A1

Shift in climatic conditions

More intense storms seen

Disaster prone



INCONVENIENT TRUTH Mt. Pinatubo's eruption forced Aeta farmer Ernesto Castillo to face the perils of climate change.

WFP assistance

UN's protection concerns

Relocation on bald mountain

Vulnerable to tailwinds

'Ondoy' slapping reminder of 'ignored elephant'

Lushai waterway

A sight to behold

Lakas-Kampi …

Incomplete data

MVP 'won't abandon Ateneo sports program'



SMB escapes in extra time

Miller blows win for Alaska

Stags join Eagles, Archers as early FilOil winners

PSC plans new recruiting program after Asian Games

Aplus
METRO
Editor: Abelardo S. Ulanday



REGULARITY OF DRUG RAID QUESTIONED

Charges filed vs 3 cops

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN has filed charges against three Manila policemen who allegedly planted evidence against a woman whom they arrested for drug pushing five years ago.

Man attacks couple; 1 dead

A GUNMAN KILLED A WOMAN ON SATURDAY night in Manila but failed to kill his other target—the victim's live-in partner.



Did you know

'Blanca case could remain unsolved'

By Ed Yap

Citizen's call

Water leak in Manila

MMDA men on the take?

Abusive pedicab drivers

Worst roads in Metro

Waste of tax money

For P50, you're off the hook

Nightmarish traffic situation

A wish for senior citizens

Attention, Comelec

Illegal jeepney terminal



KEEP OFF THE TREE

Blatant traffic violation

Don't waste our taxes

Charges filed vs 3 cops

MetroBriefs

Man drowns in Pasig River

'No truth to eviction reports'

Woman loses P5M to con men

Bush ‘knew Guantanamo prisoners were innocent,’ document discloses

WASHINGTON—FORMER US PRESident George W. Bush knew that many Guantanamo Bay detainees were innocent but refused to release them for political reasons, a senior aide to Colin Powell said in a document that AFP obtained on Friday.

The allegations were made by retired US Army Col. Lawrence Wilkerson, once chief of staff to Powell, Bush's first secretary of state, in a lawsuit filed by a former Guantanamo inmate.

The allegations were first published by The Times in London.

In a statement dated March 24, Wilkerson alleged that Bush's vice president, Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld knew that most detainees held at the US detention camp in 2002 were innocent but believed it was "politically impossible to release them." Wilkerson said he discussed the issue with Powell, who left his job in 2005.

"I know that it was his view that it was not just Vice President Cheney and Secretary Rumsfeld, but also President Bush who was involved in all of the Guantanamo decision making," Wilkerson wrote.

"Many of the prisoners detained at Guantanamo had been taken into custody without regard to whether they were truly enemy combatants, or in fact whether many of them were enemies at all," Wilkerson wrote.

By late August 2002 "I found that of the initial 742 detainees that had arrived at Guantanamo, the majority of them had never seen a US soldier in the process of their initial detention, and their captivity had not been subjected to any meaningful review." Children "as young as 12 and 13 and elderly as old as 92 or 93 had been shipped to Guantanamo," Wilkerson said, and some sold to US forces for $5,000 a head.

Often there was "absolutely no evidence relating to the detainee that was turned over, so there was no real method of knowing why the prisoner had been detained in the first place." Cheney and Rumsfeld did not want to release innocent people because they feared it would reveal the "incredibly confused" detention operation, Wilkerson said.

"Their view was that innocent people languishing in Guantanamo for years was justified by the broader war on terror and the capture of the small number of terrorists who were responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks, or other acts of terrorism," Wilkerson said.

Their detention "was deemed acceptable if it led to a more complete and satisfactory intelligence picture with regard to Iraq, thus justifying the administration's plans for war with that country," he added.

Wilkerson also alleged that Cheney "had absolutely no concern that the vast majority of Guantanamo detainees were innocent...If hundreds of innocent individuals had to suffer in order to detain a handful of hard-core terrorists, so be it." AFP



KACZYNSKI and his wife Maria

Lech Kaczynski, 60, president

LECH KACZYNSKI, WHO DIED ON SATURday in a plane crash in western Russia, rose from childhood fame as an actor to become president of Poland. He was 60.

Half of an unusual tandem of power, Kaczynski was elected president in 2005 from the nationalist-conservative Law and Justice Party, led by his identical twin, Jaroslaw, whom he later appointed prime minister.

Swept into office to rotate out [illegible] group of former communist officials who had dominated the country's politics for much of the preceding decade, Kaczynski and his brother struggled at the top, frequently putting Poland on a collision course with its European Union partners and Russia, while polarizing voters at home with a shift to the right.

Poland joined the EU in 2004, but Kaczynski often preferred dealing with the United States. As soon as Kaczynski took office in the presidential headquarters in the center of Warsaw, he forged close relations with Ukraine and Georgia, determined to bring them closer to Nato and eventually have them admitted to the American-led military organization.

His defense of these two countries often upset leading members of the EU, especially Germany, which was concerned that an expanded Nato would make Russia feel threatened and lead to new East-West tensions. Kaczynski, however, believed passionately that a strong Nato would prevent Russia from reasserting its influence over eastern and central Europe.

Kaczynski was born on June 18, 1949, when Warsaw was in ruins. His suspicions of Russia and Germany had deep roots. His father, Rajmund, an engineer, and his mother, Jadwiga, who studied linguistics, had been active in the Polish resistance against the Nazis.

He and his brother—who could be told apart only by a mole on Lech's left cheek—became famous at age 12 when they starred in a film version of "The Two Who Stole the Moon," a beloved children's story. They began their rise to political prominence in the underground Solidarity movement in the 1980s.

The brothers remained active in politics, with Lech serving as justice minister from 2000 to 2001 and gaining popularity by emphasizing the tough stance against crime. He became mayor of Warsaw in 2002.

A devout Roman Catholic, Lech Kaczynski was regarded as skeptical of the EU while he fought to defend Poland's sovereignty against Brussels and to protect its traditional, conservative values.

Kaczynski's star had been fading in recent years, and he would have faced a difficult reelection battle this year.

His wife, Maria, an economist, also died in the crash. Kaczynski is survived by his brother, Jaroslaw, who was forced to step down as prime minister in 2007 after a bruising party defeat at the polls. According to The Associated Press, he is also survived by his daughter, Marta, two granddaughters, Ewa and Martyna, and his mother.

New York Times News Service

WORLDBRIEFS

US immigration rallies call for citizenship for illegals

THOUSANDS of immigrants gathered on Saturday for rallies in seven cities to press Congress and the Obama administration to go ahead this year with legislation to give legal status to millions of illegal immigrants. Organizers planned the demonstrations—on the last weekend before lawmakers return to Washington after a recess—to follow up on a big rally held on March 21 in Washington. They are battling to keep an immigration overhaul on Congress' agenda, even as the political odds appear to mount. [illegible] The prospects for Congress to take up the volatile immigration issue dimmed as the debate over health care legislation consumed lawmakers' attention and now it is clear that the Obama administration will focus this summer on winning confirmation of a Supreme Court nominee to succeed Justice John Paul Stevens. NYT

Australia to prosecute over Great Barrier Reef accident

SYDNEY—Australia said on Sunday that it will prosecute those responsible for a Chinese ship crashing on an illegal route at the Great Barrier Reef and leaking tons of oil, which threatened a major disaster at one of the world's foremost and most delicate ecological sites. "It is quite clear this vessel went on a course that was unlawful," Transport Minister Anthony Albanese told reporters in Brisbane. The Shen Neng 1 ran aground on Douglas Shoal in the world heritage-listed reef's marine park last Saturday after straying more than 15 nautical miles (30 kilometers) off course, spilling about three tons of fuel oil. AFP

The WORLD

Poland in shock over death of leader

SMOLENSK, RUSSIA—INVESTIGATORS scrambled on Sunday to determine if pilot error was to blame for the fiery crash of a Soviet-era airliner that killed Polish President Lech Kaczynski and 96 others. *(See obituary on Page A27).*

[illegible]

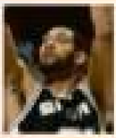
AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

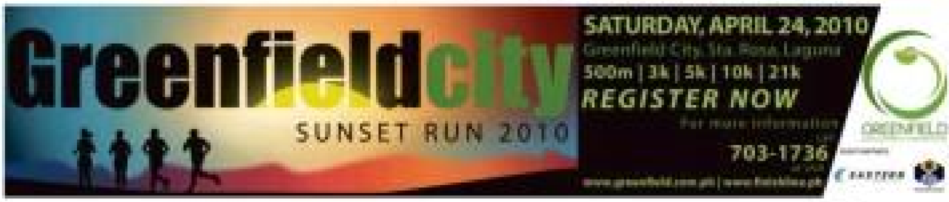


■ Westwood hangs on by 1/A30

SPORTS

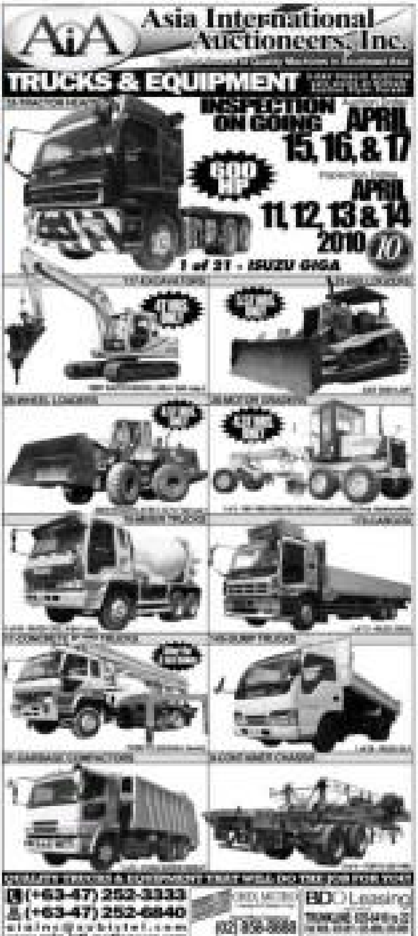


■ Duncan powers Spurs; Celts up /A31



Tigresses, Lady Eagles rout foes







Pucay salvages tie for 12th





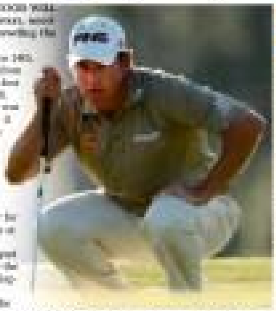


Palaro under way; 6 golds at stake



Westwood hangs on by 1

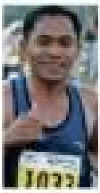
Briton survives Mickelson's charge; Tiger stays in touch



LEADER Lee Westwood lines up a putt on the 17th.

Third-round standings

Buenavista repeats as Mizuno Run king



BUENAVISTA

Big openers for Imus, UPIS tossers

SPORTSWATCH

Boxer Francisco in Forum

3 more 'Rambulan' days at SJC

FCAP 6-cocker on in Makati

Only one Tiger tale to tell

ONE GAME AT A TIME





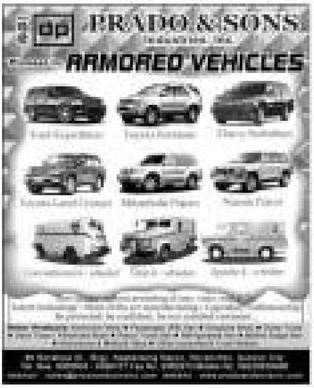
SPURS forward Tim Duncan fires a jumper over the Nuggets' Kenyon Martin.

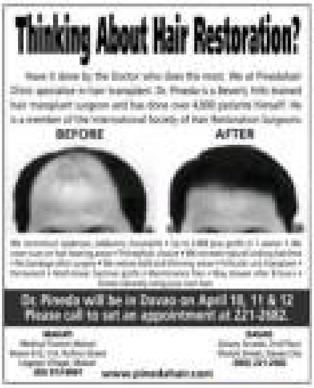
Duncan powers Spurs; Celts up



Holyfield, 47, marks return with TKO win

Englishman tops World 8-Ball







Painting your home with Ace Builders



ACE Wood Stain and Finish has a glossy polyurethane finish

As a one-stop shop for home makeovers and renovations, ACE Builders has a wide selection of steel bars for solid foundations, cement for building homes, and a lot of woodwork - gypsum boards, baseboards, and cornices - for walls, floors, and ceilings. It also has everything you will need for your electrical and plumbing systems as well as accessories for home interiors.

It also has a wide selection of paint and painting supplies, including the ACE brand that has long been known for its [illegible], and absolutely lead-free qualities. There are different finishes available, as well as innovative products like the ACE Sensations with Scotchgard Protector that provides superior stain resistance and easy stain removal, and the ACE Simply Magic Color Transforming Flat Ceiling Paint that magically guides you while painting.

ACE Paints also has an automated color-matching program that allows you to choose from over 3,000 colors to create the right color for your home. Likewise, painting is easy with ACE Builder's wide selection of paint brushes, paint rollers, and spray guns.

While shopping for your painting needs, also check out ACE Builder's More Savings, More Paint Jobs promotion, which is ongoing until April 30. Avail of great savings and discounts on paints and painting supplies, and you can also earn rewards points when you use your SM Advantage, Prestige, as well as BDO Rewards Cards.

These items are available at ACE Builders stores at SM City Fairview, SM City Pampanga, and SM City North EDSA. Or visit our website at www.acehardware.ph.



ACE Paint has different finishes to suit your home needs. In photo, ACE Essence Flat Wall Paint Acrylic Latex, Satin Wall & Trim Paint Acrylic Latex Enamel and Semi-Gloss Wall & Trim Paint Acrylic Latex Enamel



Start your home painting project with this Home Solutions Brushes and Scraper



The ACE Simply Magic Color Transforming Flat Ceiling Paint goes on blue to help avoid streaking and missed spots and within 24 hours, the paint dries to a clean, bright white



ACE Sensations with Scotchgard Protector and paint spray gun



Spread color to your home with ACE 100% Polyester Bristle Paintbrush in different sizes



This Hi-Tech Extension Pole Paint Roller makes your painting job easy and efficient

Business



Maynilad, MWC draw up new supply plan

Several low-rise dams tapping different watersheds

WATER CONCESSIONAIRES MANILA WATER CO. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. have mapped out an alternative plan to boost bulk water supply for Metro Manila by developing several low-rise dams tapping multiple watersheds like Laiban, Umiray-Sumag, Marikina and Sierra Madre.

RP to seek new air deals with South Korea, Singapore

Indicators

Currencies



Stock Market

Stocks seen to rise









Why tax evasion happens

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

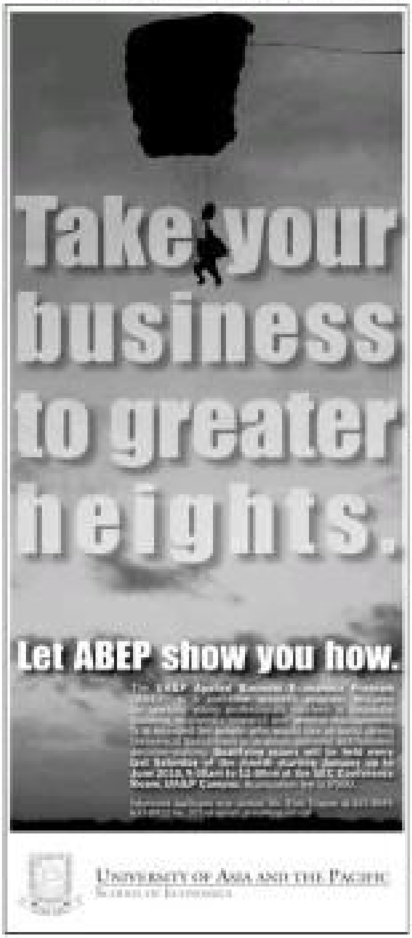


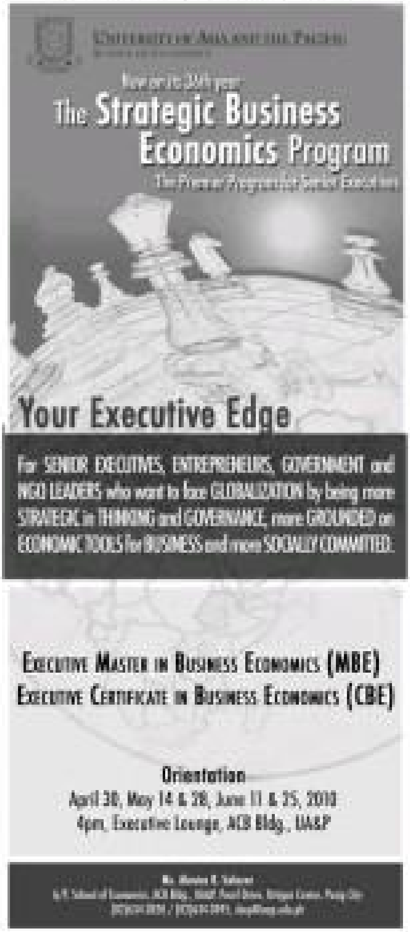
Hiding true values

Corrupt collectors

Basic causes

Maynilad





Stocks seen to rise

From page B1

Bonus agreed that the target this week would be around [illegible].

While investors would still be focused mostly on large-cap stocks given a new wave of foreign buying, Bonus said the second- and third-liners in turn would likely follow suit soon.

Doris C. Dumlao

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

JOINT ORDER No. 1-2010

DOE awards 19 contracts

'Green' plants to add 370 MW to power grid

BIR to publish list of top taxpayers

Unfriendly skies

[illegible]

— Paolo Montecillo

The bank of the future today

[illegible]

Biz Buzz

By the staff

[illegible]





COA urged to expand Meralco audit

1987-2009 coverage period

By Amy R. Remo

THE NATIONAL Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms Inc. (Nasecore) is requesting the Commission on Audit to again look into the books of Manila Electric Co., the country's biggest power distribution utility, for the years 1987 to 2009.

In a comment filed before the Energy Regulatory Commission last week, Nasecore said the new round of audit would determine whether the rates charged by Meralco from 1987 to 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2009 were "just and reasonable."

The request stemmed from the results of a COA audit, which claimed that Meralco had overcharged its customers by as much as P7 billion in 2004 and 2007.

According to the COA report, the utility overcharged its customers by including unnecessary expenses, property and equipment worth P5.48 billion and P3.55 billion for 2004 and 2007, respectively.

Meralco had also allegedly booked revenues in excess of what was allowed by law of P1.68 billion in 2004 and P3.21 billion in 2007—or P7.01 billion for the two years, the COA report further showed.

Meralco, however, immediately disputed the report and maintained that it did not overcharge during the two years in review.

"Our unbundled rates were duly approved by the ERC in 2003 after extensive evaluation by the commission of the property used and the expenses incurred in providing electricity service," Meralco president and CEO Jose P. de Jesus earlier said.

Meralco vice president and utility economics head [illegible] also stressed that only "actual costs incurred and assets 'used and useful' in delivering service in the year 2000 were incorporated in the ERC-approved unbundled rates."

In the same comment, Nasecore also sought the immediate approval and adoption by the ERC of the COA audit report.

The group stressed that the ERC should immediately determine the number of months in 2004 and 2007 that the distribution utility "collected the overcharges and to penalize Meralco for these number of months as these represent the number of times it over-collected."

Nasecore, led by its president Pete Ilagan, also urged ERC to direct Meralco to "revert to its bundled rates as of February 2003."

Century Peak unit eyes mine property

By Riza T. Olchondra

MAHARLIKA DRAGON Mining Corp., an affiliate of Century Peak Metals Holding Corp. (CPMHC), is looking to develop a chromite-rich property in Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga Sibugay.

A presentation submitted to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) showed that Maharlika Dragon is seeking final approval for a mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) with the government.

Maharlika Dragon officials told reporters that the company would initially invest P11.5 million to explore the property over two years. The proposed MPSA covers 7,000 hectares. The property is subdivided into four parcels.

The holding company said in its quarterly report for the period ended Sept. 30, 2009, that it had advanced P58 million to its affiliate Maharlika Dragon and that the advances had been paid.

Holding firm CPMHC's principal activity is to consolidate and operate companies that own mining tenements located within the Philippines.

Philippine Stock Exchange

As of April [illegible], 2010

[illegible]

Maybank

Foreign Exchange Rates

[illegible]

RP ad spend up 14.5% in 2009

By Abigail L. Ho

[illegible]

Eton swings to profit

By Doris C. Dumlao

[illegible]

InfoTech

Multimedia PC offers rich touch experience

By Raquel P. Gomez



HP TouchSmart 600

Intuitive

Extremely responsive

Handwriting recognition

Going for that wide shot

Text and photo by Charles E. Buban



EQUIPPED with a wide-angle lens, E1255W offers users a new perspective of familiar scenes.

Gadget makes a statement



GATEWAY EC3801

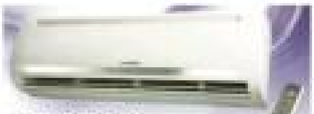
Multitasking made easy

Eye-catching display

Battery life

Air conditioning trade bound to heat up

By Paolo G. Montecillo



The Akmaire brand makes a dramatic comeback.

Clean and 'green'

18.4% rise in VAT collection seen

Expansion of coverage, improved efficiency credited



GOINGS-ON

Teves, Tetangco lead The Asset forum

Auto parts makers off to Taiwan

2010 CEO Excel Awards

Bank rates drop further

Sumisho expects growth in RP motorcycle industry

PSALM raising $3B this year

Manila Water seem to post double-digit profit growth

Biz Buzz

DMCI dividend play

High morale

A time to sell

Hyundai H-100 : The Strong and Stable Foundation for your Business



BUSINESS Monday

'Organiculture' inventor makes world a market for his products



Text and photos by Anselmo Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—THIRTY YEARS AGO, multi-awarded inventor Eliseo Ruiz presented with enthusiasm his "Organiculture" invention to government officials, hoping to contribute to the campaign to restore rice lands. All he got from them were endorsements for organic farming. Ruiz says his pitch elicited no real initiatives from the government.



ORGANIC agriculture inventor Eliseo Ruiz with bags of fertilizer

'Organiculture' inventor ...

From page B2-1

But his "Organiculture"—a bioactivator used in making compost fertilizer—is now marketed in Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, and the Middle East and will soon be in the United States, India, Brunei, Mexico, Canada and Africa.

An "organiculture" production plant in the People's Republic of China (PROC), which is being put up in collaboration with a Chinese businessman and provincial government, will operate this year.

Ruiz holds a Ph.D. in Food Engineering at the University of Missouri, and was president of the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) before he accepted the presidency of the CLSU Alumni Foundation.

Ruiz says he was still studying in the 70s when he began collecting micro-organisms that can help convert waste materials into organic fertilizer.

In the 1980s, he perfected his "bio plus activator," which generates organic fertilizers.

"I am using only 0.4 percent of this activator and 99.6 percent of waste materials to produce organic fertilizer," says Ruiz, a former Ten Outstanding Young Men and two-time presidential awardee.

He described the fertilizer as a result of "an accelerated decomposition of biodegradable materials, both of plant and animal origins, through an advanced bio-fermentation process involving more than 20 naturally occurring beneficial organisms."

"To enhance its efficacy as a fertilizer, chelated trace elements, enzymes, growth promotants and other functional compounds are added to fortify the mixture," Ruiz adds.

He established a production plant and office in Barangay Bagong Sikat here for the production of the bio plus activator and his own brand of organic fertilizer in solid and liquid form.

"The rice land has become acidic due to continuous use of chemical fertilizers and other inputs. The beneficial micro-organisms that help to decompose the biodegradable materials are not there anymore," he says.

The use of his organic fertilizer for complementation and supplementation to a few bags of chemical fertilizer help restore the good state of the soil.

"In due time balanced nutrition to the soil can be attained and the use of chemical inputs can be greatly minimized if not done away with," he says.

"The expenses can be reduced and higher yield can be expected," Ruiz says.

Ruiz' plant and office is managed by a company manned by his family and some in-laws, which produces 250,000 to 300,000 bags of organic fertilizer each year that are shipped abroad. Each bag weighs 50 kilograms.

His franchisees, located in Tarlac, Pampanga, Batangas, Ilocos Norte, Bukidnon, Bohol, Mindoro Occidental, Davao and Agusan del Norte produce about the same number of bags a year.

"It's a P300-million business now and it is helping a lot of people," Ruiz says.

He says the company employs about 100 workers who each earn from P300 to P600 a day.

"The bulk of the materials used are sugar mill wastes, rice dust and animals waste for the organic fertilizer.

"I started marketing my activator in Malaysia 10 years ago. Then I expanded to other countries," Ruiz says.

Ruiz says he is currently exporting two container vans filled with his bio plus activator every month. The importers then use the activator for the production of their own brand of organic fertilizer.

Ruiz says he is proud that his partners in the PROC is manufacturing his bio-plus activator this year in De Qing City in Heilongjiang province.

Once the plant starts operating, organic fertilizer would be used to regreen several hundred-thousand hectares of barren land in that area.

Ruiz says his invention had been effective in propagating trees and crops in the area's rocky and arid landscape.

"My happiness is that my invention is helping mankind in many parts of the globe. Above all, it is a source of pride that I, a Filipino, is recognized as the inventor of that product in many countries," he says.



FERTILIZER making Ruiz's bio-activator [illegible]

Marketing ...

From page B2-4

"capital" while Villar owns "anti-poverty." What you need now is a "brand differentiator" that will convince voters to switch from other candidates and prefer you.

8. Do not waste your time on campaign sorties because you are simply preaching to the choir. Instead, you should prioritize on revising and reinforcing your manner of campaign, ensuring that your brand name and your message resonate better, then executing through an integrated marketing communications campaign.

9. Work more closely with your vice presidential candidate Edu Manzano. You need him to connect with the masses where you are weak. Capitalize on the fact that he used to be the country's leading male game show host. He has the appeal and the credibility. You should have seamlessly integrated your mutually dispersed campaign platforms. If Gibo Teodoro stands for Galing at Talino, then Edu's Mission may be EDU-cation. Galing at Talino ng Lahat ng Pilipino can only happen with EDU-cation. A recent study confirmed a strong positive correlation between levels of IQ and GDP. EDU-cation, "Galing at Talino" Lahat ng Pilipino, Unity, Economic Miracle!

10. The objectives of your revitalized campaign must be to: (1) strengthen the conviction of existing followers that they are making the right choice to prevent any more defections; (2) convince undecided voters that Gibo is the best choice among all candidates with his heroic promise of an "Economic Miracle" and reason-to-believe, which is unity; (3) to plant the seed of doubt in other voters who have made their choice, and hopefully convert them; and finally (4) appeal to the 98 percent mass vote.

11. The new reinforced brand proposition should therefore go as follows: "Si Gibo Teodoro—at Lahat ng Magaling Pilipino—may Galing at Talino upang gawing Posible ang Milagro sa Pagsulong (or "Milagro") [illegible] pamamahalaan ng Pagkakaisa."

My proposed slogan is: "[illegible] GIBA sa ang Bayan! Dapat GIBO-in!" where GIBA is made to stand for the exact opposite of GIBO. If GIBA is to destroy, GIBO is to build. If GIBA is to divide and rule, then GIBO is to unite and lead. This makes for very strong branding and a compelling call-to-action for all to rebuild the nation. So instead of "[illegible] ka na ba?," Gibo should be saying, "Pilipinas, GIBO ka na ba?"

(The author is president of [illegible] Business Masters Inc., an advisory firm specializing in marketing and leadership, whose mission is to help Filipino companies compete effectively and win in a global economy. He is a recipient of the Agora Award for Marketing Excellence in Asia-Pacific from the Philippine Marketing Association. Comments and reactions are welcome and may be sent to [illegible]@yahoo.com.)

Professionalizing family businesses

Workplace Wisdom

Difficulties

Challenges of non-family members

Positive outcomes

MDC's Education, the High-Tech Way





The MDC Legacy





BUSINESS *Monday*



The best coffee now comes in an instant pack



Marketing presidents

BUSINESS Monday

On borrowed words, character, greatness





Direct quotes

Borrowed words

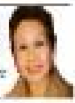
King's dissertation

'Voice merging'

UnionBank's gift to the Filipino nation

MAPping the Future

Maria Gonzalez Goolsby



[illegible]

Filipino values

[illegible]

Education

[illegible]

Evaluation

[illegible]

Awards

[illegible]

Epiphany

[illegible]

On borrowed words ...

[illegible]

Great poet

[illegible]

Columnist defends King

[illegible]

Flaws

[illegible]

Authentic voice

[illegible]



THE LITTLE... [illegible caption]

Bamboo craftsmen heed the call of the homeless

Text and photos by Rosa May de Guzman
Inquirer Mindanao

POLOMOLOK, SOUTH COTABATO—

Inspired craftsmanship

Multimillion-peso industry

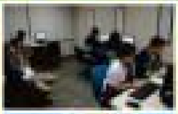
Surge in demand

The Voice of Leadership is Volvo Philippine's corporate advocacy that aims for the development of youth leaders who shall embody the character of true leadership, organized by Viking Cars, Incorporated (VCI) and Scandinavian Motors Corporation (SMC). Launched in 2008, the VOL upholds leadership fuelled by integrity of heart and excellent skills, rooted in God-centeredness and exemplified by accountable and responsible stewardship. It also aims to be a channel for aspiration, recognition, inspiration, vision and action for outstanding high school leaders. Through the course of the program, which involves an intensive yet fun training camp for the participants, intra-school competitions, and the national championship, Volvo hopes to discover powerful voices that can move and inspire, innovate and instigate leadership transformation among the youth.

2009 - 2010 VOLVO VOICE OF LEADERSHIP

COOL VOICES ROCKED

[illegible]











Volvo Hosts The 2nd Voice of Leadership Program

Capping off the Voice of Leadership Program for 2009 - 2010, a Grand Finals night was held last February 23, 2010 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati City hosted by VOL Spokesperson Chris Tiu. Delivering his 8-minute speech that eloquently articulated the theme "If I were president, I would...", Ateneo de Manila High School's John Stephen R. Batalla bested 14 other finalists.

The winners, including 1st runner-up Billie Crystal Dumaliang from Miriam College High School, and 2nd runner-up Allan Arthur Cabrera from Colegio de San Agustin, were chosen by a panel of respected judges – advertising icon Emily Abrera as Chairman and CNN Hero of the Year Efren Peñaflorida as co-chair, former MBA, PBL and PBA player and now trainer Alex Compton, ANC's premier broadcast journalist David Celdran, and lawyer and TV host Atty. Zorayda Ruth Andam.

In his speech, Efren Peñaflorida reminded everyone, "One is never too young to make a difference". After everything that everyone has done, gone through and witnessed through Volvo's advocacy program, another message stands – the Voice of Leadership is a voice that moves and inspires. It is a voice that each of us longs for – no matter what age, stage or status in life we are in. Looking and listening to the participants during that night, we feel assured that hope is just around the corner.



If I were president, I would...





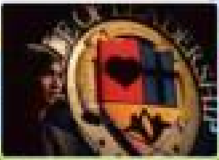


The Voice of Leadership Grand Finalists





The Dancers performing for the VOL Grand finals



LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

New concrete Batanes houses 'with doors'

PRIDE OF PLACE

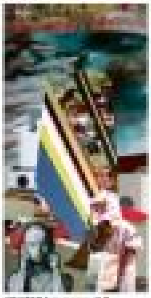


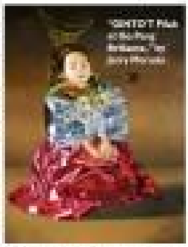
Augusto F. Villalon

Because the ancient door-less houses with low open windows that could also serve as entrance are considered 'poor man's house,' locals are constructing ugly concrete houses with doors



'Four Shows,' a narrative of humanity





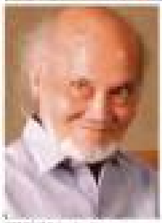


New concrete Batanes . . .



French influences on the art of Federico Aguilar Alcuaz







[illegible]



[illegible]

Denim flash

Usher in chic sophistication and casual cool with the perfect denim collection at Robinsons Department Store

[illegible]

Sports appeal

[illegible]





[illegible]



[illegible]



"SENSUOUS LIFE Cycle" 2b by Soon Lai Wai

Lascano in Singapore

FILIPINO ARTIST RICO LASCANO joins Asian contemporary painters Tang Seng Kok and Soon Lai Wai in a Singapore exhibit.

The group exhibit, aptly titled "Whispering Nature," explores the connections between landscape, memory and the sublime. Each artist interprets his subject in a uniquely personal style in the mediums of oil, charcoal and acrylic.

Lascano, who is known for his tranquil, meditative waterscapes, diverges in this new lyrical interpretation of water and flowers. Where once it was all stillness and placidity, here water is roused to a state of exuberance and celebration. And like an echoing song, reflecting on the profound joy of the moment, the paintings include haikus by Lascano's wife, [illegible].

Malaysian artist Soon Lai Wai paints with bold strokes of black oil paint and is known for his seminal lotus paintings. The lotus plant is a subject close to his heart which he paints with fluidity and vitality.

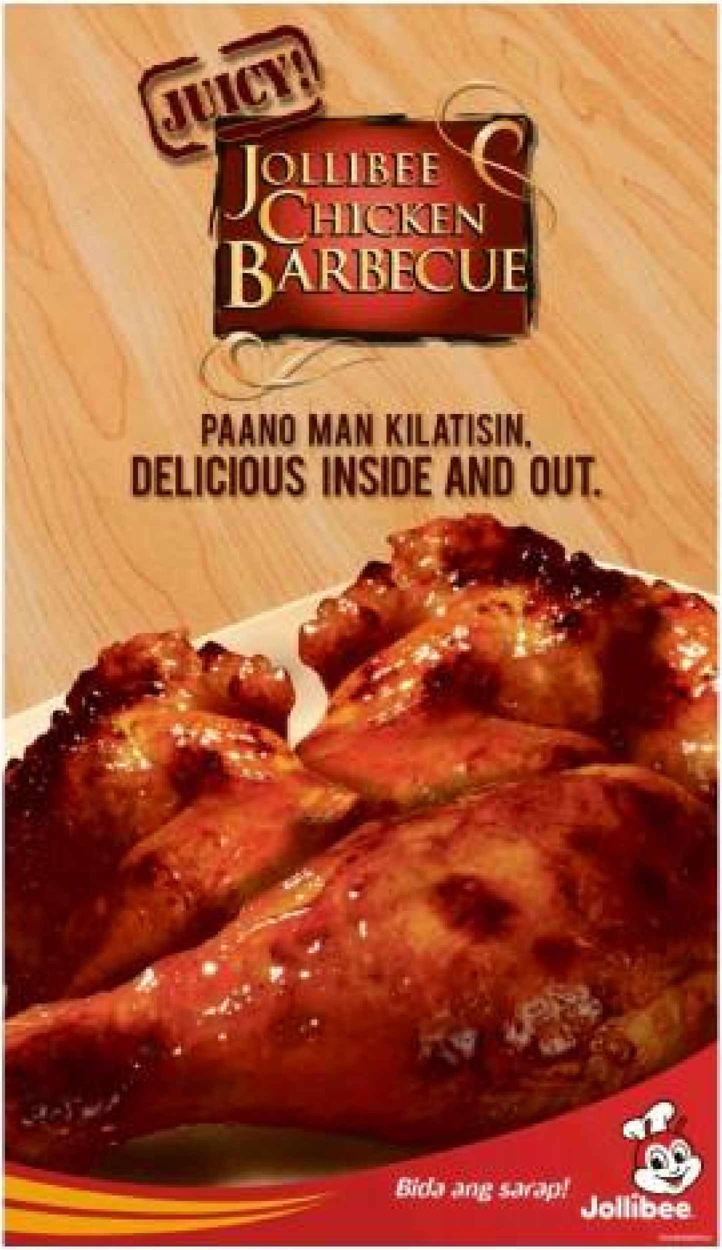
For Singaporean artist Tan Seng Kok, nature embodies passion and freedom and his black and white charcoal drawings illustrate the intrinsic system of nature. The balance between freedom and rigidness.

Different viewpoints, different expressions but all in the Whispering Nature exhibit, gifts the viewer with an intimate communion with nature.

The exhibit runs April 9-26 at Illuminations Arts, No. 20 [illegible] (behind Boat Quay) 2/L, Singapore. For inquiries, visit [illegible]; tel. [illegible].



"WATER Dance," by Rico Lascano



Enjoy Jollibee Chicken Barbecue in more ways than one

When it comes to food, Filipinos have a classic love affair with chicken. A hearty get-together with family or friends just doesn't seem complete without that familiar chicken dish on the table. While there are those who instantly reach for the platter of crispy fried chicken, there are also many who just love the flavor and aroma of chicken barbecue.

To satisfy the growing number of chicken barbecue lovers all over the country, Jollibee offers a sumptuous take on one of the most favorite Pinoy comfort foods. With its juicy meat and delicious inside and out taste, the Jollibee Chicken Barbecue has easily captured the scrumptious taste of Pinoys nationwide.

And for an even more enjoyable meal, the Jollibee Chicken Barbecue now comes in meal combinations so that everyone from your family and friends can enjoy and savor its goodness.

You can't go wrong with the Jollibee Chicken Barbecue meals which come in 1-piece or 2-piece chicken with plain rice. Have it solo at P66 for the 1-piece chicken and P111 for the 2-piece meal, or the value meals priced at P84 for the 1-piece chicken barbecue and P129 for 2 pieces which comes with a regular softdrink.

You may also choose to pair the Jollibee Chicken Barbecue with your favorite noodle dish and a regular softdrink. The Chicken Barbecue and Spaghetti Meal at only P102 make for a delicious and satisfying meal. You may also opt for the Chicken Barbecue with the Palabok Fiesta Meal for a great-tasting treat at only P119.

For bonding with family or friends, you can now get the Jollibee Chicken Barbecue by the bucket! Order the 6-piece Chicken Barbecue Bucket for only P329. If you're craving for more, there's also a bigger 12-piece bucket at P649. For the same price, you can also go for the 12-piece combo bucket featuring 6 pieces each of the Jollibee Chicken Barbecue and the all-time favorite, Jollibee Chickenjoy.

These new meal combinations will definitely give you more ways to enjoy your favorite Chicken Barbecue. Whether with family, colleagues or friends, make bonding moments extra special with the Jollibee Chicken Barbecue!

Visit any Jollibee store nationwide to enjoy these Chicken Barbecue treats. Or call 8-7000 for Jollibee Express Delivery (Metro Manila stores only).

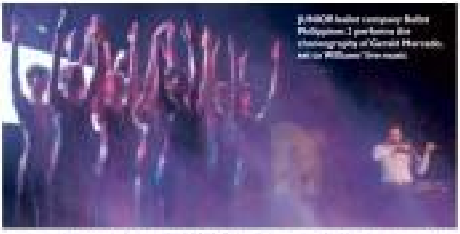
Overview of a troubled but beautiful planet

The planned Mind Museum in Taguig gets a fitting lift-off with the screening of 'Bella Gaia,' a multimedia feature on the Earth based on outer-space images from Nasa

Overview of a troubled but beautiful planet







Bar-art gallery opens south of Manila











Why the piano is important



'Defending the Caveman' returns May 14-16



[illegible]



What Women Want

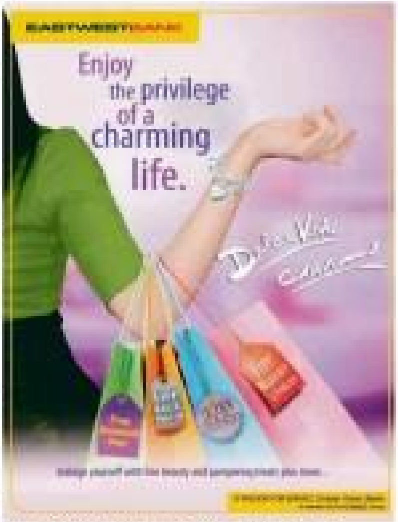
By Joy Rojas

Fabulous shopping, beauty and pampering treats, combined with free health and wellness benefits, make EastWest Bank Dolce Vita MasterCard the ultimate ladies' credit card



[illegible]





UPLB creates artists endowment fund

Focal point

Cyclical theme





Reader's Digest survey shows Filipinos are happily married

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books



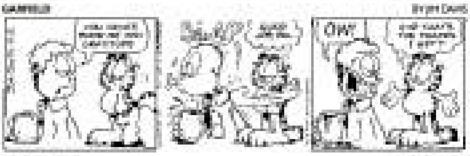
Iconic and larger than life, the man who led the parliament of the streets had feet of clay, as Vergel Santos's biography shows. But the book also firmly ensconces him in the pantheon of national heroes

Chino Roces: Separating the man from the myth

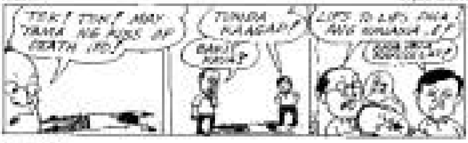
HIS HEAD BOWED, HANDS clasped in front of him, Chino Roces looked sadly into the casket. In it was my father. It was around three in an afternoon of January 1988 and with my back turned from the funeral parlor's door, I didn't notice him walk in. A younger brother tugged my sleeve, "*Kuya, hindi ba si Don Chino 'yan?*"

Collaboration issue

GARFIELD
By Jim Davis



A. LIPIN



PUGAD BABOY



DICK TRACY

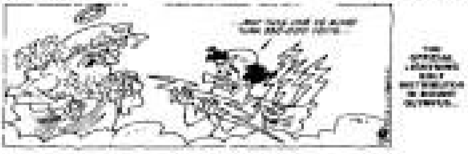




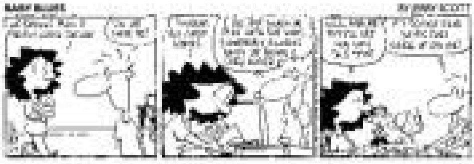
JAMES BOND



DIVINE COMEDY



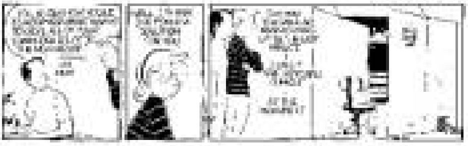
BABY BLUES
By Jerry Scott



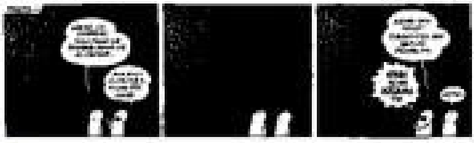
TULDOK



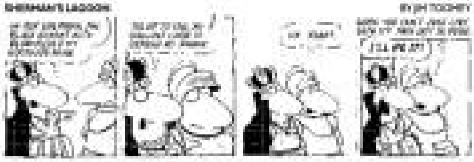
BEN
By Daniel Shelton



KIKO MACHINE



SHERMAN'S LAGOON
By Jim Toomey



HOROSCOPE
By Frances Drake

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

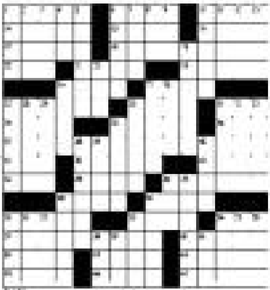
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Conceptis Sudoku

	9	2	3			6		
	3			1	9		5	7
8					2			4
	6	8						5
	4		7		8		6	
2						1	4	
5			2					6
9	2		1	4			7	
		7			3	5	1	

Answer to previous puzzle

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



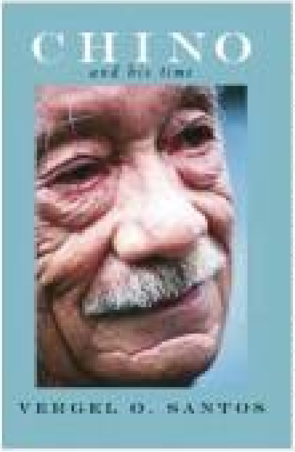
Chino Roces: Separating the man from the myth



ICON AND PATRIOT "He didn't have to lead to be followed."

Road warrior

By Ruel S. De Vera



The briskly told 'Chino and his Time' is an accessible and memorable remembrance of publisher and activist Joaquin P. 'Chino' Roces

The sadness of here in Ypil's 'Highest Hiding Place'

By Katrina Stuart Santiago
Contributor



Distance

Volume by volume: collecting the works of Tony Perez

By Walter Ang
Contributor

POETRY, FICTION, PLAYS and essays are all utilized in the arsenal of Tony Perez when he crafts his works. Though he is a prolific playwright and has written a slew of books in English and Filipino that deal with various topics, Perez is more popularly known for his output on esoterica and the paranormal.

He has a series of books, which includes "Mga Panibagong Kulam," that teaches readers how to cast spells. Another series chronicles the experiences of the Spirit Questors, a group of psychics that communicate with paranormal entities, which he formed in 1994.

He also has five books set in Cubao, where he has lived since 1955. Perez was born in Pampanga in 1951 but relocated as a young child.

"My father was a colonel and we drove once in that area (near Camp Crame) that was allotted for military officers who served in Korea," he says.

Perez started writing in grade school, encouraged by his teachers. "They told me I should be a writer when I grew up. As a young child, it sort of stuck in my mind. I did end up as a writer," he says.

Many interests

Perez notes that his own interest in arcane activities such as magic, shamanism, psychic powers and the occult stems from the fact that Filipinos have a natural affinity for the mystical. A rich heritage of folklore and mythology, and a deep connection with religion, he observes, provides breeding ground for Filipinos to connect with the paranormal.

His passion for spiritual matters led him to pursue a master's degree in Religious Studies. His thesis "Pagsubok sa Ilang Ikatapat na Wakas sa Simbang," an analysis of how Jesus is portrayed by theologians, won the 2005 National Book Award for Theology and Religion.

> 'You can't write for theater when you want to write eventually for another medium'

Aside from writing, Perez is also involved in the visual arts. He's worked as a graphic designer, illustrator, art therapist and fabric artist (by way of batiking). He also paints and has worked with different media from watercolor to Chip-pan. He was named one of the Thirteen Artists of the Philippines by the Cultural Center of the Philippines back in 1972.

All these years, he'd been doing all of his writing, esoteric work and painting while working at his day job at the Public Affairs section of the United States Embassy.

"I have to pay the bills," he says. In addition, he used to teach in several universities while pursuing a (yet to be completed) master's degree in Clinical Psychology. The extremely heavy workload took its toll and he suffered a mild stroke in 2005.

Collected works

Perez no longer teaches.

"I had to give something up!" he says emphatically. He now spends his free time organizing his files towards the completion of a 10-volume set of his collected works.

Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 5 have already been published. "The volumes won't come out in chronological order because I'm not a good archivist," he says.

Lovers of theater and drama will be pleased to know that the volumes already out contain his plays. Volume 1, "Pagkamu-lat sa Kamlyan: Tatlong Dulang Pambata," includes "Edda," "Ramonang Bahay" and "Bagbaran"; while Volume 3, "Mitak sa Ibabang-Hari: Mga Unang Dula," includes "Hoy Bayan," "Gabriel" and "Anak ng Araw."

In 2008, he won the National Book Award for Drama for Volume 4, "Tatlong Paglalakbay: Tatlong Mahabang Dula," which includes the trilogy "Bombita," "Bagbang Timog" and "Sa North Diversion Road."

Volume 5, "Loren sa Tinapay," contains psychological case studies and some early prose.

Advice

Offering advice to aspiring playwrights, Perez says, "Many playwrights today start out writing plays with the ultimate objective of becoming a screenwriter. You just cannot do it that way. The theater is a very special medium and you can't write for it when you want to write eventually for another medium."

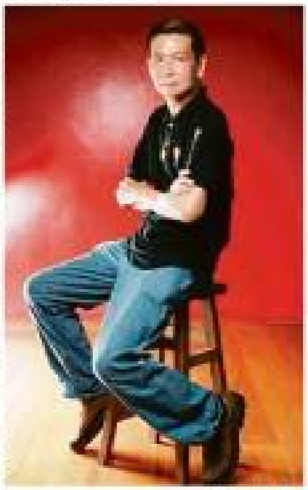
He recounts the lack of material dealing with adult themes.

"My adult plays are for audiences 30 years old and above. They understand my subject matter because they've gone through intense love, death, separation, giving compassion, growing younger, getting married, giving birth, burying someone," he says. "Most playwrights now write for elementary or high-school audiences because that's where the market is."

"Don't be limited by the notion that to be nationalistic, you have to write only in Filipino," he says. "The Filipino now is a global person with a global audience. Young writers should write in English for their voices to be heard."

Perez also encourages young playwrights to widen their scope. "They only think of single plays. They don't develop plays in the magnitude of trilogies or even writing in series," he says. "We Filipinos should think big."

Volume 2, "Nagbabagoang sa Barbanque: Limang Dula ng Tagumpay," which includes "May Marupenala," "Snow Lake," "Bisperas, 4:30 N.M.," "Sacramento of The Dead" and "The Wounds Call"; and Volume 6, "Pitong Bituwin sa Banalit Ng Bahay: Three Journey Plays," which anthologizes "Bombita," "Trip to The Sun" and "On The North Diversion Road," was recently launched at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex, University of Santo Tomas. Call 731-3101 local 8252 or 8278.



RENAISSANCE man Tony Perez: "Don't be limited by the notion that to be nationalistic, you have to write only in Filipino."

60th Palanca Awards now accepting entries

THE CARLOS PALANCA Awards for Literature (Palanca Awards) is now on its 60th year. Deadline for submission of entries is April 30.

Categories are: English Division—Short Story, Short Story for Children, Essay, Poetry, One-act Play, Full-length Play.

Filipino Division—Maikling Kuwento, Maikling Kuwentong Pambata, Sanaysay, Tula, Dulang May Isang Yugto, Dulang Ganap ang Haba, and Dulang Pampelikula.

Regional Languages Division—Short Story-Cebuano, Short Story-Hiligaynon and Short Story-Iloko.

Each contestant can submit only one entry per category.

New categories are Poetry Written for Children in the English Division and Tulang Isinulat Para sa mga Bata in the Filipino division.

The categories were launched last year to encourage the development of a body of poetry for young children ages 6-12.

Meanwhile, in the Kabataan Division, Palanca Awards' special division for young writers below 18 years old, the Kabataan Essay theme in the English category is "What is it in the environment that I can protect?" and in the Filipino category "Ano sa kalikasan ang aking kayang pangalagaan?"

The literary contest is open to all Filipino (or former Filipino) citizens, except current officers and employees of its organizing body, the Carlos Palanca Foundation, Inc. Contest rules and official entry forms are available at www.palancaawards.com.ph.

Entries with complete requirements may be submitted to the Foundation's office at 6/F, One World Square Bldg., 10 Upper McKinley Road, McKinley Hill Town Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. Call 8569890; e-mail cpmawards@palancaawards.com.ph; www.palancaawards.com.ph.

Winners will be announced on Sept. 1, 2010.

Earth Day celebrations at Arroceros Park

ARROCEROS FOREST PARK, Manila's last lung, will celebrate Earth Day on April 18, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The Winner Foundation led by Nadi Patricio runs the forest park for the City of Manila.

Stage, television and movie actor Teddy Bonzainino will read children's stories. Games and prizes and coloring bird pictures will be provided by the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines.

Visitors can bring hammocks to string up between trees, read a book purchased from the old book and magazine sale, or simply have a snooze.

Pikopiko, ensaimada, pancit, barbecue and other food and baked items will be on sale. A White Elephant sale of unique recycled items, clothes and organic products, potted blooms, herbs and ornaments, will also be held.

"Reduce, recycle and reuse" is Earth Day's battle-cry.

Families are encouraged to picnic right at the forest park. They will be entertained by the Makabata School Foundation's children's 50-piece drum and lyre band from Pasig, a yoga demonstration by Meon d'Arc Rishiraj and a Hiabhal Kamote music ensemble of harmonicas, tablas and sitar. Well-known artists will paint scenes and render portraits on the spot.

Arroceros Forest Park is at the foot of the Quiapo Bridge, on the side of the Metropolitan Theater, beside the Pasig River.

The celebration starts with a 9 a.m. mass by Malate parish priest Father John Leydon; Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim will lead tree planting rites.

Other participating organizations and sponsors are the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Wild Bird Club, the Catholic Women's Club, Makati Garden Club, Unilever, Coca-Cola Bottlers, Flower Farm, Heaven Bakery, La Tasca, and Orchid Garden Hotel. Jollibee with their mascot will feed the children from Malate.

Entrance is free.

ENTERTAINMENT

Put on a happy Facebook!

Celebs share their profile pics on the popular social networking site

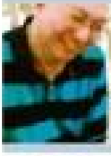
By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SO WHAT'S YOUR FACEBOOK PROFILE PIC?



Mark Meily

Filmmaker



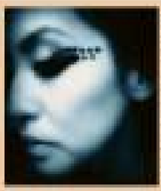
Ricky Lee

Scriptwriter



Iza Calzado

Actress



Jolina Magdangal

Singer-actress



Brillante Mendoza

Filmmaker



Gardo Versoza

Actor



Pepe Diokno

Filmmaker



Kiko Rustia

TV host

MOVIEWORLD

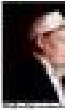




P550

Movie Treat





Just

ENTERTAINMENT

tto sisters r for drama







'Just an entertainer'

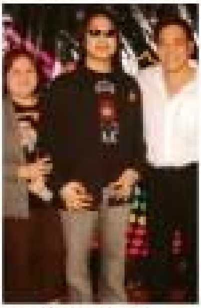
TAKE FIVE

Performers who have followed in Willie Nep's footsteps still have a lot to learn from him



Presidential aspirants in his show this weekend include a rapper, magician–and a ventriloquist





LEARNING

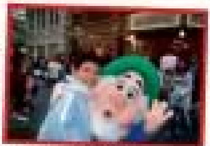
JAPAN for kids

A boy discovers an honorable people and a superb cuisine



By Scott Lee Chua

WHEN MY MOM TOLD me we were going to Japan, color drained from my face. My legs wobbled.





Family global treks a real-world education

Best WWII stories picked

Playgrounds for the MIND

Member Schools

[illegible]

DLSU-D faculty presents researches in int'l confab

HIGH CALIBER FACULTY FROM THE DE LA SALLE University-Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) College of Business Administration (CBA) and College of Education (COE) once again contributed to the ever expanding field of education.

CBA faculty Dr. Norberto Ocsillo delivered his paper titled "Technology Interventions in Classroom Learning Sessions: the eClass Initiative at De La Salle University-Dasmariñas" at Teachpedia 2010: An International Conference on Information Technology in Education recently held at the Century Park Hotel, Manila. His study delved on the practical use of information technology and use of the Internet through conducting a pilot project with his four classes. [illegible]

In related events, Dr. Henry Bernardo, chair of Religious Education Department (RED) of the College of Education, presented his paper at the recently held Asia Association for Global Studies (AAGS) 2010 Conference at the National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan. His study, titled "Welcoming the Other: Interreligious Dialogue in Catholic Higher Education Institutions (CHEIs) in Cavite, Philippines," focused on the indispensability of interreligious dialogue in globalization [illegible]

Other presenters in AAGS 2010 include researchers and educators from 17 educational institutions from India, Saudi Arabia, Japan, California, USA, United Kingdom, Taiwan, Bahrain, Iran, Cuba, Malaysia, Germany, Poland, and Canada.



PWU COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

[illegible]

UE to host Ipcap 2nd National Convention

[illegible]

The saga of Bedan excellence continues

[illegible]

LPU president awarded

[illegible]

Britesparks Int'l School Summer Program

[illegible]

Entrepreneurship for out-of-school youth

[illegible]

CLSU is lone Center of Excellence in fisheries

[illegible]

APC is Philippine representative to ESU International Public Speaking Competition

[illegible]

TIP CBE dean garners OFE Award



[illegible]

CEU Malolos Dentistry represents Philippines in Southeast Asian Competition

[illegible]

UST Miguel de Benavides Library announces poetry tilt

[illegible]

EUREKA!

Lessons from our travels



To marvel

Home is still best



Japan for kids

Seriously good food

Wrap art

Family global treks ...

Nomadic learning

Saving up

Fellowship grant for Muslim scholars

Speech and drama summer classes

Short foreign language courses

Study tour as teaching strategy





AT THE Air Force Museum

In the detail

Link to history



Buy budget ticket, give English lessons

Search ongoing for UP Gawad Plaridel 2010

Schools showcase fiesta culture



CLASS ACT



A DAY IN THE PARK, OCEAN PARK THAT IS